

STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY DIVISION OF TAXATION PO BOX 240 TRENTON, N.J. 08695-0240

ANDREW P. SIDAMON-ERISTOFF

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE Tel (609) 292-5185 FAX – Trenton (609) 984-2061

May 18, 2012

Robyn Glocker-Hammond Gloucester County Office of Assessment

Clayton Complex, Building A 1200 N. Delsea Drive

CHRIS CHRISTIE

GOVERNOR

KIM GUADAGNO

Clayton, NJ 08312

Dear Ms. Glocker-Hammond:

This responds to your request that Elk Township be granted a waiver of the municipal revaluation requirements as provided in the Property Tax Assessment Reform Act, P.L. 2009, c. 118 (C.54:1-86 et seq.). The Act is generally referred to as the Gloucester County Pilot Program.

The Act provides that on or before December 31 of the third full calendar year next following the effective date (August 18, 2009), every municipality within the pilot county shall implement a real property revaluation. The Act further states that the county assessor may waive the revaluation requirement for a particular municipality if the municipality implemented a revaluation within 24 months of the effective date of the Act. The Act and the regulations at N.J.A.C. 18:17A-4.1 et seq. do not grant the Director, Division of Taxation, the authority to waive the revaluation requirement contained within.

My staff reviewed our records which indicate that Elk Township's last revaluation was completed in 2006 with implementation for Tax Year 2007 (January 10, 2007). A review of the statistical information shows an elevated Coefficient of Deviation (COD) of 14.47 that reflects an assessment pattern lacking uniformity. As you know, N.J.A.C. 18:12A-1.14(b)(1.)(i) speaks to general coefficients of deviation saying "A coefficient of deviation greater than 15% generally points to a need for revaluation." The general coefficient of deviation is very close to 15% and has risen significantly for 2011. While the coefficient for vacant land may not be truly reflective of uniformity due to the low volume of sales, it indicates that other properties may be overassessed. This lack of uniformity should be considered if you waive a revaluation. Additionally, the Director's Ratio is 105.08%, exceeding the adopted percentage level of assessment established by the county board of taxation of 100%. This indicates that assessed values are higher than true market value. A preliminary look at the usable sales for Elk Township indicates overassessment.

Elk Township has a relatively small number of line items and its tax map received approval for Formal Certification on March 16, 2012. As a pilot program for county assessing and with the information provided above, it appears that the judicious course of action is undertake a revaluation or a reassessment. This will place all of the municipalities in Gloucester County within the valuation time frame predicated by the Act.

If you require further assistance with this matter, please contact Patricia Wright, Assistant Director at (609) 292-3070, or by e-mail at patricia.wright@treas.state.nj.us.

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Michael J. Brya

Director

Division of Taxation

MJB: ESA

Enclosure

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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RUN DATE: RUN TIME: 1 PAGE NO :				SALES PRICE	210,000	355,000	244,900	230,000	322,000	246,000	204,000	149,900	250,000	340,000	100,000	155,000	150,000	130,000	3,086,800
				ASSESSED VALUE	187,800	330,300	248,600	239,400	337,300	271,900	228,100	173,000	291,200	443,500	131,100	204,800	228,100	210,100	3,525,200
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		SAMPLING PERIOD:		LOCATION OF BLOCK	200	21	214.01	204	42	214,01	170	190	214	21	126	52	18	170	YEAR
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YEAR TO DATE

DISTRICT TOTALS

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